



USAID | WEST BANK/GAZA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

December 31, 2008
2008-WBG-04

TO: All USAID/West Bank and Gaza Contractors, Grantees, and Recipients

SUBJECT: USAID West Bank and Gaza Security Notice

Dear Implementing Partners,

Please find below the U.S. Department of State's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Jerusalem issued notice to OSAC members on December 30, 2008:

Please remember to be cautious when traveling in and around the West Bank. The Palestinian population's emotions are extremely high. Also note that emotions are high with Israeli settlers and there is a possibility of sporadic settler violence. There is always a possibility of demonstrations, unexpected clashes erupting and isolated incidents taking place throughout the West Bank near Israeli settlements, bypass routes, checkpoints, and also in areas where Palestinian National Security members attempt to contain an incident. For that reason, you should remain very alert and observant of your surroundings.

For all your Gaza staff, please advise them that it is best to remain in their homes and not attempt to leave their homes to go to a supermarket or elsewhere. They should avoid traveling in a vehicle as they may be mistaken for having other intentions and they do not necessarily know who might be traveling on the route alongside, in front of, or behind their vehicles.

Additionally, please find below the Warden Message issued by U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv on December 30, 2008:

Today's Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens to current IDF operations in the Gaza Strip and ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza by militants and terrorist organizations into Israel. U.S. Government employees, for the time being, have been restricted from traveling within a 30 KM radius of the Gaza Strip, inside of which the vast majority of rockets and mortars have fallen. To travel inside the 30 KM radius, the Embassy's Regional Security Officer's approval is required. Further, no U.S. government official travel is permitted inside the Gaza Strip.

Militants and terrorist organizations in Gaza continue to launch numerous rocket and mortar attacks against Israel. On December 28 and 29, several longer-range missiles landed in Ashdod, located about 35 KM from Gaza. On December 29, a longer range missile also landed in Yavne, which is just north of Ashdod. Though

USG employees' travel is restricted to 30 kilometers, American citizens should be aware that militants and terrorist groups could launch additional longer-range missiles that may land well beyond the 30 KM radius and to take appropriate security measures.

Employees at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem have been advised to exercise caution and avoid crowded public locations in Jerusalem. These USG employees' travel to the West Bank has been further restricted.

Due to spontaneous demonstrations against IDF operations in Gaza, it is recommended that American citizens avoid traveling on Highway 65 in the Wadi Ara area between Highway 6 and Highway 66, which is near Um-El-Fahm and is en route to Afula. These demonstrations, which can occur with little or no warning, make traffic unpredictable; demonstrators also have thrown stones at passing vehicles.

American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

As a reminder, American citizens are strongly encouraged to register with the Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov>, via e-mail jerusalemacs@state.gov or in person at the Consulate, 27 Nablus Road.

We also ask that you stay in close contact with USAID West Bank/Gaza Mission through your Cognizant Technical Officer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony R. Ranese".

Anthony R. Ranese
Contracting Officer